

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 28348 311137Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 311128Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 9037

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 28348

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: IEA: SLT MEETING

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS FROM BOSWORTH

1. LONG-TERM PACKAGE COMPLETED TODAY BY SLT CONTAINS THREE MAJOR OPEN AREAS (A) NATURE OF COMMITMENT ON NON-DISCRIMINATION IN CHAPTER V; (B) PREPOSITIONING OF MSP MEASURES; AND (C) LEVEL OF MSP. THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER POINTS ON WHICH ONE OR TWO DELEGATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS. BUT, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF CANADIAN RESERVATION ON GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PROJECT BY PROJECT COOPERATION (THEY WANT IN EFFECT COMPLETE AND EXPLICIT OPTIONALITY ON ALL PROJECTS), I WOULD NOT EXPECT THESE TO BECOME MAJOR ISSUES IN GOVERNING BOARD.

2. MOST TROUBLESOME QUESTION AT THIS POINT IS CONTINUED ABSENCE OF EC POSITION ON MSP. THIS PREVENTS SATISFACTION OF NORWEGIAN AND UK DEMAND THAT THEY BE ASSURED THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SELL THEIR OIL IN EUROPE BEHIND SHIELD OF COMMON EC MSP MEASURE, I.E. VARIABLE LEVY. IT ALSO CREATES HESITANCY AMONG SOME EC COUNTRIES (FRG, ITALY) OVER POTENTIAL APPLICATION OF OIL COMING IN UNDER

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PAGE 02 OECD P 28348 311137Z

EC PREFERENTIAL TRADING AGREEMENTS. DANES AND UK

BELIEVE CONSTRUCTIONS CAN BE FOUND UNDER BOTH TREATY OF ROME AND PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL ELIMINATE BOTH THESE PROBLEMS. EC WILL BE HAVING NUMBER OF KEY MEETINGS ON THESE ISSUES OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS. I HAVE STRESSED TO GERMANS AND DANES THE NEED TO RESOLVE EC PROBLEMBETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER 1. GERMANS SPOKE TENTATIVELY OF SOME SORT OF CONTINUING RESERVATION (AFTER PROGRAM ADOPTED) TO PROVIDE COSMETIC COVER FOR PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT PROBLEM. I DID NOT ENCOURAGE THEM ON THIS.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING EC ISSUE AND THREE MAJOR POINTS STILL OPEN--ON WHICH NEGOTIATION WILL CLEARLY BE ARDUOUS--THERE IS GENERAL FEELING AT SLT LEVEL THAT WE HAVE (1) NARROWED DIFFERENCES SINCE GOVERNING BOARD INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM IN JULY AND (2) THAT OVERALL PROGRAM HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY ENRICHED DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS.

4. JAPANESE REMAIN ON THE FENCE. THEY APPEAR RELATIVE-
LY CONTENT WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS PROVIDED UNDER PROJECT GUIDING PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESS FOR STRONGER STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT THAN THE "SHALL CONSIDER" FORMULATION NOW IN TEXT, THEY ARE RELATIVELY PRAGMATIC ON ACCESS ISSUE. MY ESTIMATE IS THAT THEY WILL NOT STAND ALONE IN OPPOSITION TO MSP AND WILL COME ALONG WITH GROUP CONSENSUS. ITALIANS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS DIFFICULT ON MSP, WHILE STILL NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, THAN LAST JUNE.

5. IN SUM, I AM OPTIMISTIC WE CAN MEET DECEMBER 1 DEADLINE ON OVERALL PACKAGE, PROVIDED WE CONTINUE TO PUSH AT HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL, PARTICULARLY WITH FRG AND JAPAN, AND TO ANY EXTENT POSSIBLE REINFORCE INTERNAL EC EFFORT TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS FRANCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, PETROLEUM, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OECDP28348
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750378-0646
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975101/aaaaaare.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IEA: SLT MEETING FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS FROM BOSWORTH
TAGS: ENRG, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006